



MATURE READERS (grades 9–12)

Anderson, Laurie Halse. ***The Impossible Knife of Memory***. Hayley Kincaid and her father move back to their hometown to try a 'normal' life, but the horrors he saw in the war threaten to destroy their lives.

Buckley, Michael. ***Undertow***. Sixteen-year-old Lyric Walker's life is forever changed when she witnesses the arrival of 30,000 Alpha, a five-nation race of ocean-dwelling warriors, on her beach in Coney Island. The world's initial wonder over the Alpha quickly turns ugly and Lyric's small town transforms into a military zone with humans on one side and Alpha on the other.

Carroll, Emily. ***Through the Woods***. A collection of five spine-tingling short stories.

Doerr, Anthony. ***All the Light We Cannot See***. A blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II."--Provided by publisher.

Kline, Christina Baker. ***Orphan Train***. When seventeen-year-old Molly Ayer is sent to perform community service at elderly Vivian Daly's home in order to avoid juvenile hall, she discovers that the two are very much alike, despite the vast age difference.

Lockhart, E. ***We Were Liars***. Spending the summers on her family's private island off the coast of Massachusetts with her cousins and a special boy named Gat, teenaged Cadence struggles to remember what happened during her fifteenth summer.

Ng, Celeste. ***Everything I Never Told You***. The daughter of a Chinese American family is found dead, turning the family's lives upside down.

Simmons, Kristen. ***The Glass Arrow***. Stolen from her home, and being groomed for auction, Aya is desperate to escape her fate and return to her family, but her only allies are a loyal wolf she's raised from a pup and a strange mute boy who may be her best hope for freedom ... if she can truly trust him.

The Panda Book Awards Shortlists 2015-2016

Compiled by the Panda Awards Steering Committee

Every school year, the Panda Steering Committee promotes the Panda Book Awards reading initiative and publicizes lists of highly recommended books for readers in international schools in China. The four reading categories are: Younger Readers (EC3-grade 2); Middle Readers (grades 3-5); Older Readers (grades 6-8); and Mature Readers (grades 9-12). Each list consists of eight to ten titles that span a wide range of genres. Students are encouraged to read as many books from the list as possible and are invited to vote for their favorite book in the weeks after Chinese New Year.

The reading initiative is the responsibility of the Panda Steering Committee, a group of international librarians in China. These professionals volunteer to read, review and discuss book titles submitted by other librarians or students. The goal of the Panda Book Awards

initiative is to instill an enduring love of reading and to take students on an exciting reading adventure.

The Panda Book Awards initiative is now in its eighth year and its popularity has grown tremendously. During the first year, five international schools participated in voting. This year, over forty international schools have joined the initiative, and over 3,100 students cast their votes.

In the fall, the Panda 2015-2016 books should be available at all participating schools. In the meantime, explore the hand-out and put the Panda titles on your summer reading list.

Also visit the website

<http://pandabookawards.wikispaces.com>

for more details on the Panda reading initiative.



The Panda Book Awards Shortlists 2015-2016

(Books are listed in alphabetical order by author)



YOUNGER READERS (PreK–grade 2)

Barnett, Mac. **Sam & Dave Dig a Hole.** Sam and Dave are digging a hole and they will not stop until they find something spectacular.

Bland, Nick. **King Pig.** King Pig can make the sheep do anything he pleases... But can he make them like him?

DiPucchio, Kelly. **Gaston.** A proper bulldog raised in a poodle family and a tough poodle raised in a bulldog family meet one day in the park.

Lunde, Darrin. **Dirty Rats?** Nobody likes a rat. And we're not talking about a snitch here. We're talking about those disgusting bald-tailed rodents that scurry around alleys and in the subway. But, hold on... are rats really so bad? There are hundreds of rat species all around the world that defy common stereotypes. Rats help predators survive, allow plants to spread their seeds, and even contribute to medical research that helps humans stay healthy. Simple, clear text introduces many of the rats that crawl on the earth today, where they live, what they eat, and how they survive. Next time you see a rat, take a second look.

Milway, Alex. **Pigsticks and Harold and the Incredible Journey.** Pigsticks, the last member of a line of explorers, and his assistant, Harold, set off on a journey through jungles, over deserts, and up a mountain to the Ends of the Earth.

Novak, B.J. **The Book with No Pictures.** In this book with no pictures, the reader has to say every silly word, no matter what.

O'Byrne, Nicola. **Open Very Carefully: A Book with a Bite.** A duck helps guide the reader through a story book of the "Ungly Duckling" when a scary crocodile falls into the book.

Santat, Dan. **The Adventures of Beekle.** An imaginary friend waits a long time to be imagined by a child and given a special name, and finally does the unimaginable--he sets out on a quest to find his perfect match in the real world.

Spires, Ashley. **The Most Magnificent Thing.** A little girl has a wonderful idea. With the help of her canine assistant, she is going to make the most magnificent thing! She knows just how it will look. She knows just how it will work. But making the most magnificent thing turns out to be harder than she thinks.

Tan, Shaun. **Rules of Summer.** Two boys explain the occasionally mysterious "rules" they learned over the summer, like never eat the last olive at a party, never ruin a perfect plan, and never give your keys to a stranger.



MIDDLE READERS (grades 3–5)

Bell, Cece. **El Deafo.** A graphic novel memoir of author/illustrator Cece Bell who grew up hearing impaired.

Creech, Sharon. **The Boy on the Porch.** One day John and Martha, a young couple, find a boy asleep on their porch. The boy is unable to speak and explain who he is, so they choose to care for the boy and embrace his exuberant spirit and talents.

Elvgren, Jennifer. **The Whispering Town.** In Denmark during World War II, young Annet, her parents, and their neighbors help a Jewish family hide from Nazi soldiers until it is safe for them to leave Annet's basement.

Fitzgerald, Laura Marx. **Under the Egg.** Her grandfather's dying words lead thirteen-year-old Theodora Tenpenny to a valuable, hidden painting she fears may be stolen, but it is her search for answers in her Greenwich Village neighborhood that brings a real treasure.

Graff, Lisa. **Absolutely Almost.** Ten-year-old Albie has never been the smartest, tallest, best at gym, greatest artist, or most musical in his class, as his parents keep reminding him, but new nanny Calista helps him uncover his strengths and take pride in himself.

Jenkins, Steve. **Eye to Eye: How Animals See the World.** Profiles a series of animals with unusual eyes, and explains how such animals use their uniquely evolved eyes to gain essential information about the biological world.

Martin, Ann M. **Rain Reign.** "Struggling with Asperger's syndrome, Rose shares a bond with her beloved dog, but when the dog goes missing during a storm, Rose is forced to confront the limits of her comfort levels, even if it means leaving her routines in order to search for her pet".

Pizzoli, Greg. **Tricky Vic: The Impossibly True Story of the Man Who Sold the Eiffel Tower.** In the early 1900s, Robert Miller, a.k.a. "Count Victor Lustig," moved to Paris hoping to be an artist. A con artist, that is. He used his ingenious scams on unsuspecting marks all over the world, from the Czech Republic, to Atlantic ocean liners, and across America. Tricky Vic pulled off his most daring con in 1925, when he managed to "sell" the Eiffel Tower to one of the city's most successful scrap metal dealers! Kids will love to read about Vic's thrilling life, and teachers will love the informational sidebars and back matter.

Sonnichsen, A.L. **Red Butterfly.** In China, a founding girl with a deformed hand raised in secret by an American woman must navigate China's strict adoption system when she is torn away from the only family she has ever known.

Telgemeier, Raina. **Sisters.** In graphic novel format, Raina Telgemeier shares the story of her relationship with her younger sister.



OLDER READERS (grades 6–8)

Boyne, John. **Stay Where You Are and Then Leave.** Four years after Alfie Summerfield's father left London to become a soldier in World War I he has not returned but Alfie, now nine, is shining shoes at King's Cross Station when he happens to learn that his father is at a nearby hospital being treated for shell shock.

Edwards, Janet. **Earth Girl.** Abandoned on Earth because of her inability to survive on other planets, Jarra crafts a fake background for herself to join a class of norms who are excavating the dangerous ruins of the old cities.

Fleischman, Paul. **Eyes Wide Open: Going Behind the Environmental Headlines.** We're living in an aha moment. Take 250 years of human ingenuity. Add abundant fossil fuels. The result: a population and lifestyle never seen before. The downsides weren't visible for centuries, but now they are. Suddenly everything needs rethinking - suburbs, cars, fast food, cheap prices. It's a changed world. This book explains it. Using politics, psychology, and history for attitude, Eyes Wide Open shows how to see the principles driving events and attitudes, from vested interests to denial to big-country syndrome. Here's the briefing you need to comprehend the twenty-first century.

Gantos, Jack. **The Key That Swallowed Joey Pigza.** Everything goes topsy-turvy for Joey as he becomes the man of the house, looking after his new baby brother, taking care of his troubled mother, and seeking out his missing father.

Schrefer, Eliot. **Threatened.** Luc is an orphan, living in debt slavery in Gabon, until he meets a Professor who claims to be studying chimpanzees, and they head off into the jungle – but when the Professor disappears, Luc has to fend for himself and join forces with the chimps to save their forest.

Sloan, Holly. **Counting by 7s.** Twelve-year-old genius and outsider Willow Chance must figure out how to connect with other people and find a surrogate family for herself after her parents are killed in a car accident.

Stroud, Jonathan. **The Screaming Staircase.** Follows three young operatives of a psychic detection agency as they battle an epidemic of ghosts in London.

Yousafzai, Malala. **I am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World.** Malala Yousafzai's describes her fight for education for girls under Taliban rule, the support she received from her parents to pursue an education, and how the Taliban retaliated against her by trying to kill her.